Alberta

**News** release

**Budget 2008**
THE RIGHT PLAN FOR
TODAY & TOMORROW

*April 22, 2008*

# Budget 2008 builds safe communities with more than $500 million over three years

## *Funding means key task force recommendations will be implemented*

*Edmonton...* More police officers, improved bail hearings, enhanced prosecution services and more probation officers are part of the Alberta government's commitment to promote strong and vibrant communities and reduce crime so Albertans feel safe.

The government has earmarked $468 million over the next three years to support key recommendations made by the Crime Reduction and Safe Communities Task Force in their final report last fall. Another $33 million is included in the *2008-11 Capital Plan* to build additional government-owned addiction treatment facilities.

"Securing this funding allows us to begin work on several key initiatives that will improve the justice system," said Alison Redford, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. "This includes significantly increasing our staff to support effective prosecutions, and ensuring those who should be denied bail, are denied bail."

The Safe Communities Secretariat will oversee the development, implementation and evaluation of a province-wide crime reduction and prevention strategy in collaboration with provincial government departments, communities, the police and other partners.

A total of 26 new Crown prosecutors and 41 new support staff will be added in 2008-09; 21 Crown prosecutors and 14 support staff in 2009-10 and; seven new Crown prosecutors and four new support staff in 2010-11. These additional staff will enhance Alberta's ability to effectively prosecute serious and violent crimes, including making dangerous and long-term offender applications when appropriate.

Additionally, 100 new police officers will be added in 2008-09 as part of government's commitment to provide 300 new officers over the

next three years. More than 30 probation officers will also be hired this year to enhance offender supervision and support in the community.

"We have made a commitment to Albertans that their neighbourhoods and their communities will be safe," said Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security. "Adding these new frontline officers sends a clear message that we will continue to crack down on serious and violent crime in Alberta. Through the addition of more probation officers, we have also recognized the need to provide more intensive community supervision and support for offenders so they don't re-offend and re-victimize Albertans."

Other Safe Communities initiatives include: increasing the number of treatment beds for drug addictions and mental health services (Health and Wellness); taking action to prevent family violence and improving access to existing programs for those affected, expanding mentoring opportunities to provide youth with positive role models and increasing resources for parents of at-risk children (Children and Youth Services) and; increasing broad-based supports and early intervention initiatives for at-risk children to improve their learning outcomes (Education).

Budget 2008 meets commitments to Albertans today while prudently planning for tomorrow.

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**Backgrounder:** Information on where new police officers will be allocated

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**Backgrounder**

*April 22, 2008*

## New police officers to hit Alberta streets this year

As part of a three year commitment to add 300 new frontline police officers to Alberta, funding for 100 new officers is included in 2008-09. Those officers will be allocated to the following police services:

| | |
|---|---|
| Calgary Police Service | 41 officers |
| Edmonton Police Service | 35 officers |
| Medicine Hat Police Service | 3 officers |
| Taber Police Service | 1 officer |
| RCMP-Municipal Contract Positions | 20 officers**: |

- 3 officers – Red Deer
- 1 officer each – Peace River, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Strathmore, Brooks, Bonnyville, Cold Lake, St. Paul, Westaskiwin

***plans are being developed for the placement of the remaining eight officers*

In order to meet funding eligibility requirements to hire these new officers, police services had to:

- be fully staffed (up to authorized strength);
- prepare a business case showing where and how new officers will be used; and
- demonstrate they have the capacity to hire and train new officers.

Although not able to meet the requirements to add new officers this fiscal year, Lethbridge Regional Police Service, Camrose Police Service and Lacombe Police Service indicate they will be in a position to add more officers in subsequent years. Solicitor General and Public Security will review future business cases for new officers in subsequent years from all police services

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